

Boot/root disk with ext2/ext3, scsi and aacraid driver?

Dave Johnson dave@wangtrading.com

Fri May 3 14:05:01 CDT 2002

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There seems to be an issue here that RH, Dell, or users have not fully addressed:

* Floppy or CD boot disk that can be used for automated RH 7.2 installs.
- Asking for the world: something that works on all poweredges.
- Asking for the Universe: An included tool to automatically config canisters.
- Asking for the Universe in the palm of a hand: Asking Dell to ship a bootdisk with the above requirements with every server.

Here is what I have done to try and address this issue...

I've successfully created a floppy RH install disk (7.2) that will use the Local CDRom drive on a 1650 (and probably works on almost all poweredge's since it has the aicxxx and megaraid driver from 2.4.18). The install works with hands off via the ks.cfg.

The problem with this method is that the OS CDs RH ships has a broked initrd... (can grub specify something to pass on PCI addr info?) It seems that Dell gets around this problem by installing their own initrd, when you install from their Open Manage CD, as a post install item. You can get this initrd on the fresh install, but one has to boot from floppy, go into rescue mode and copy it over.

It seems I'm missing something, as Dell provides an option for one to install from the RH CD's directly for an interactive install, and that install will boot up fine after it is installed. What does redhat do with the module option information to get this to work? Do they generate a new initrd after installing the system? It sounds like I can put something in ks.cfg to fix this, (without putting a second floppy into the mix).

To eliminate the changing of CDs, one has to either create their own CD; use NFS, or pxeboot. (Which I should have initially tried, but would have missed all this fun). Thus I'm looking at doing a nfs or pxeboot next...

Any help or information would be appreciated.

For what its worth I have also d/led RH 7.3 beta disks and for the bootnet.img with netdrv.img disk, the aacraid.o driver still needs the proper PCI pointer... Haven't tried the boot.img w/ driver disk...

- Dave

+Michael E Brown Michael E
<mailto:Michael%20E%20Brown%20%3cmichael_e_brown%40dell.com%3e> Brown
<michael_e_brown@dell.com>

+Tue Apr 30 09:18:00 2002
+
+Your best bet would be to use the Dell Server Assistant (DSA) CD to do
+your install. After the installation is complete you will find the
+kickstart file that DSA uses to install your machine on the Utility
+Partition (UP) which is on /dev/sdal (scsi) or /dev/hdc1 (ide). You
can
+then modify it to your spec and reinstall the system.
+
+The only discrepancy is that DSA puts down an updated install image
that
+contains native support for the raid controller on PE1650. You will
have
+to modify the kickstart file to add an option line to pass the
+"aacraid_pciids=" parameter, if you use your own media to do an
install.
+
+Actually, even easier than that, you can just use the updated install
+image that DSA uses, if you like. If you examine the "autoexec.bat" on
the
+Dell UP, you will notice that it will kick off the linux install if a
+certain file is present (only after you have done a DSA install first.)

+You can modify the ks.cfg on the Dell UP in place and then "touch" the
+appropriate file, reboot to the UP and it will kick off another
install.
+(this way you don't have to worry about the options line in the
kickstart)

++
+Michael

+On Tue, 30 Apr 2002, Daniel Thomas wrote:

> Has anyone had any luck creating a kickstart disk for the 1650 using
> rh7.2. I can't seem to get it to work because of the different raid
> controller.
>
> Regards,
> Daniel Thomas
>
>
> *Linux-PowerEdge mailing list*
> <<mailto:Linux-PowerEdge@list.dell.com>> Linux-PowerEdge@list.dell.com
> <<http://lists.us.dell.com/mailman/listinfo/linux-powerededge>>
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>

++
+Michael E. Brown, RHCE, MCSE+I, CNA
+Dell Linux Solutions
+ <<http://www.dell.com/linux>> <http://www.dell.com/linux>
+
+ If each of us have one object, and we exchange them,
+ then each of us still has one object.
+ If each of us have one idea, and we exchange them,
+ then each of us now has two ideas.

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An HTML attachment was scrubbed...
URL: <http://lists.us.dell.com/pipermail/linux-powerededge/attachments/20020503/6d100e93/attachment.htm>

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Dell PowerApp

Amit_Bhutani@Dell.com Amit Bhutani at Dell.com

Fri Jan 24 19:50:00 CST 2003

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I am presuming that you are talking about PowerApp 120 'Linux Edition' ?

Are you talking about Red Hat's kickstart disk (ks.cfg) utility or Dell developed kick-start utility. Two very different things(maybe the marketing guys should have come up with something else to call it other than kickstart and kick-start).

If you are looking for dell kick-start (the initial appliance configuration wizard), then you already have it on your hard drive's RP (reinstall partition). If you re-image the box it automatically goes into kick-start mode. if you are not planning on re-imaging your box, then it can be found on the resource cd that must have shipped with your appliance.

If you are talking about Red Hat kick start/bootdisk, then you make a bootdisk. the easiest way would be is to use the 'mkbootdisk' command. The ks.cfg file can be generated by hand. Look up Red Hat KickStart HOWTO for a list of all variables that can be used.

Amit B

-----Original Message-----

From: Stephen Lambert [mailto:s.lambert@cephrenhosting.com]
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2003 6:26 PM
To: Linux-PowerEdge@exchange.dell.com
Subject: Dell PowerApp

Hello

We are looking for a kickstart or boot disk for the Dell PowerApp 120 webserver. Do you know where we can download a copy?

Thanks

Sincerely

Stephen D Lambert
Chief Operations Officer
Cephren Communications Inc.
<http://www.cephrenhosting.com> <www.cephrenhosting.com>
<http://www.cephrenregister.com> <www.cephrenregister.com>
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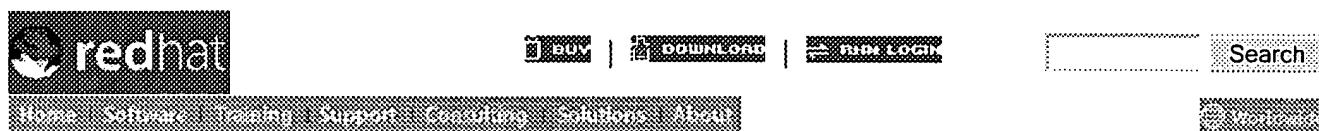
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URL: <http://lists.us.dell.com/pipermail/linux-powerededge/attachments/20030124/ebe7ce43/attachment.htm>

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Re: Wanted: experiences with kickstart installs.

From: John Connell <jrc art co uk>

To: redhat-install-list redhat com

Subject: Re: Wanted: experiences with kickstart installs.

Date: Fri, 25 Sep 1998 12:14:12 +0100

The following message appeared in the hurricane-list in January this year. I found it at:

<http://archive.redhat.com/hurricane-list/1998-January/0986.html>

I looked for follow-ups but didn't find any and have tried e-mail to the author but have not yet received a reply.

I'm faced with a similar, although perhaps simpler, problem of keeping software up-to-date on a number of PCs used for software development. In the near future we will probably have a few dozen such systems spread across two sites, one in the UK and the other on the west coast of the USA.

Most of the systems run Red Hat 5.1 with Accelerated-X as the X server. We also make use of WinNT and Win98 on some systems. It would be good if a similar mechanism could be used to configure them but that is not essential.

I would be very interested to hear from anyone who uses kickstart to keep a number of systems up-to-date. It would be reassuring to know that it is being used successfully before I disrupt the software development process!

Many thanks in anticipation

--

John Connell (jrc art co uk)

Shaun T. Erickson (ste carroll com)
Tue, 13 Jan 1998 17:49:11 -0500

I have read the single kickstart document that comes with 5.0 (/doc/README.ks on the cd), and am now looking for people's experiences with this - problems, gotcha's, and any other info I can get.

My group supports a large number of PCs at Bell Labs, and many of the PCs run a combination of Red Hat Linux, Win95, WinNT and Plan9. We have automated our NT installs, are working on automating our Win95 installs and wish to do the same for our Linux installs (we don't even know if Plan9 installs *can* be automated). We want all of our automated installs to work equally well when the OS is the only one on the system or one of many (some systems will boot into all four).

Since what we are attempting isn't trivial, we're looking for any advice we can get, along with success/horror stories regarding Red Hat kickstart installs. We also are looking to have each OS install kick off the install of the next OS, and so on, so that we can, say, pop a linux boot disk in a bare machine and come back later - with no intervention in the interim - to find Red Hat, WinNT & Win95 all properly installed on the system. Any ideas you might have would be most welcome.

I do want to get this right. First, it will simplify my job considerably. Second, my primary users include the gentlemen who wrote Unix, C & AWK, so I like to avoid embarrassing myself by screwing up their computers. :-)

Thanks in advance. Please reply to me directly. Once we have this working, I'll be glad to share my experience with others.

Shaun Erickson
home: ste carroll com
work: ste bell-labs com

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